

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

We want to preach the gospel of peace and good will. We can make no headway by indulging in impotent denunciation of the South and its works. We can make no progress by whining about our lack of opportunities in the industrial North. We can only win by patient and intelligently directed efforts. We must climb up the ladder the same way the white man climbed it centuries ago, and submit as patiently as he did to rebuffs that could not be helped at the time. Strategy is the sensible weapon of the weaker factor in a fight, and it is by strategic diplomacy that we are to win out in the present crisis. The Negro must earn the respect of the governing elements wherever he lives or hopes to have his being. He must do cheerfully that which his hands find to do, and do it better than any one else can do it. Evolution is slow, but it is sure, and nature seldom undoes her work. We need the help of republicans and we need the help of democrats—we cannot afford to alienate by intemperate speech or injudicious action a single force that can be utilized for our advancement.

Let us be calm, and avoid "going off half cocked" at any time about evils which only time and labor can remedy. Conservatism is not necessarily cowardice. Discretion is still the better part of valor.

REFORM THE MORTGAGE SYSTEM.

One of the first steps to ameliorate the condition of the Negro in the South is to put an end to the abominable mortgage system in vogue, which keeps the colored farmer always poor and in debt—practically in slavery as to a white land-owner. The Afro-American Council or the Negro Business League or some of the strong secret organizations could buy up great tracts of good land, and sell it off to colored farmers in such plots as they can pay for in a few years. What we want is fewer "hot air" orations, and a

more general program of buying land on the co-operative plan, building our own halls, business buildings, theaters, and buying our own boats for pleasure purposes. If we can build and hold fine churches, we can build and hold property for secular and investment purposes. Let's up and at this mortgage proposition. The Business League and Council can afford to settle presidency in a few minutes, and give the lions share of their time to the consideration of the vital needs of the race. Even the indorsement of the administration need not consume a great deal of time.

Honest journals rebuke mendacity wherever it is to be found, and are no respecter of persons.

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

The fight for Justice of the Peace goes merrily on. There are candidates galore, but it is our humble judgment that those who are seeking appointment with the greatest zeal will not be the lucky ones. It is growing fashionable now, especially in judicial positions, for the office to seek the man, and the appointing power desires to be free to scan the field until he finds the fittest person for the honor to be bestowed. The dignity of the justiceship and the emoluments are of such proportions as to invite the consideration of some of the best lawyers in the District, and it is not likely that any one whom the President might select will decline to serve.

The Negroes represent one third of the District population, and they bring a great deal of business in one way and another to the Justice's court. The race should have at least two out of the ten appointments. The man chosen must not be a politician. He must not be a man with an unsavory reputation or a criminal record. He must not be known as a bully or blather-skite.

On the contrary, the choice for Justice of the Peace should be of the highest possible type of a gentleman and a scholar that this cultured community can produce. He must be learned in the law, and possess the judicial temperament. He must be sober, calm in demeanor, fair in his judgment of men and things, affable and courteous to all who have business in his court, and he must be the possessor of unswerving moral courage. He must not brow-beat nor submit to being brow-beaten. He must be firm, without being severe, and merciful, without giving lease to license. He must know human nature, and be broad enough to temper his estimates by considering all the mitigating circumstances that may enter into a case.

These are heavy exactions, but the Negro race has men who can measure up to all the requirements enumerated. We can bring them forward at the right time, and if the President wishes to compliment the race by giving us the gentleman or gentlemen who will most faithfully represent us in character, intelligence and judicial instinct, he will appoint the man or men we have in mind.

Little-headed trustees can make the most progressive church appear ridiculous at unexpected moments.

INDIANA TO THE FRONT.

Indiana is coming forward again. At the recent session of the Indiana Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, Mr. Charles W. Brown, of Indianapolis, was elected Junior Vice Department Commander. This is quite

a distinguished and much sought position, and it is worthy of note that Mr. Brown is the first colored man to be thus honored. Mr. Brown is the commander of the Martin R. Delaney Post of Indianapolis, an organization which under his capable direction has become widely known for its enthusiasm, loyalty and efficiency. Mr. Brown is a force in the political life of the Hoosier state, and is very favorably mentioned as the nominee of the legislature next year.

Philadelphia may prove the Philippi of the National Afro-American Council

REGISTER LYONS' SOUND ADVICE.

In the course of an interesting address to the students of the Normal and Agricultural College, of which Prof. W. H. Council is principal, Register Judson W. Lyons gave the following sound and practical advice, which is worth more to the young people than all the incendiary resolutions and ill tempered speeches that demagogues may make in the twentieth century. Mr. Lyons, whose worth as a citizen and as an official is being more generally recognized now than ever before, said:

"The interests of the South demand that the Negro stay here. The millions of factory operatives in the North and in Europe demand that he stay, and his own best interest will be conserved by staying. But all must unite that he must be accorded fair play. Fair play in the courts fair play in business and an equal chance in the race of life. If he is charged with crime, try him before a jury, if not his peers, citizens of his state. He is never seen on the bench, hardly ever seen on the jury, and scarcely ever exercises much influence at the bar, so there is no danger of sympathy overdoing its part in his behalf. If the courts thus constituted cannot be trusted by those who constitute them, then who can trust them?"

"Three things, I am satisfied, will constitute a complete answer. They are industry, education and character. Industrious to get homes and property; education that we may understand the affairs of our country—our obligations to it and society, and character that we may stand before our fellow men without fear and trembling."

Cowards fights in mobs and in ambush.

RETIRE OFFICER W. H. WEST.

The Colored American always regrets it when a colored officer is brought to the attention of the authorities for any breach, wheather he be innocent or guilty. The prejudiced ones are anxious to point out such instances as evidence that we do not appreciate our responsibilities when placed in a position of trust. The case of Policeman William H. West, which was settled the other day, need never have come to the attention of the department, as it was too trivial for serious consideration. Mr. West was subjected to unnecessary humiliation and annoyance by a bumptious fellow-officer, who in trying to be efficient was simply officious. We are glad the incident closed without further embarrassments. As a matter of fact, Mr. West is one of the oldest members of the force, and has been in active service longer than most people can remember. In all fairness, he should be retired and permitted to take life easy for the remainder of his days. Mr. West will be remembered as the officer who had the nerve nearly thirty years ago, to arrest President Grant on the streets of Washington for fast driving.

We care very little how great a man used to be. It is what he is today that counts.

A HERO AT REST.

Hon. Samuel Lee—A Leader in the Dark Days of Reconstruction Passes Away—Notes of his Career.

Sumter, S. C., Special—On the 26th inst. the messenger on the pale horse summoned Mr. Samuel Lee of Washington, D. C., from labor to rest. He was born in this town fifty-five years and four months ago to the very date. The first Sunday schools organized by the A. M. E. and M. E. churches of this city were organized by him.

During the dark days of 1876 when it was almost death to advocate the political equality of our people. He was among the few who dared, not only to advocate, but to expose the wrongs on the other side. The glitter of gold could not tempt him. As a leader during those days he was among the bravest and truest. The true history of Sumter County and in fact, the state of South Carolina can never be written until the deeds of bravery and kindness of Samuel Lee be placed upon her sacred pages.

At the time when many of the bravest and best of the Negroes had to leave their native state he was forced to leave and adopt the capital of the nation as his home and it was here that he received his last message. The remains of this great man reached his native home, Sumter, S. C. Sunday at 9 p. m., and at 10 o'clock Monday morning found a large congregation assembled in Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. church to pay their last tribute of respect to one, who had done much for them.

The pastor, Rev. J. C. Williams announced the first hymn after the choir had most touchingly sung "I would not live always, etc." Prayer by Rev. J. G. Sampson, D. D., Scripture lesson by Rev. J. C. Watkins of the Presbyterian church. The Rev. B. A. J. Palmer of the M. E. Church introduced the next hymn. This was followed by a short discourse by the pastor, using a portion of Paul's letter to Timothy: "I have fought a good fight, finished my course" etc. The whole congregation was allowed to look into that face which from all appearances was only wrapped in the mantle of sleep.

To his last resting place was he borne and there by her who was once his wife deposited. Not to be disturbed by the political changes of this country, neither by storms, earthquakes and other disasters, but when the morning of eternity dawns he shall gently arise to meet the judge of all the earth. One by one those old landmarks are falling. Mrs. Z. E. Walker and Miss Alice Lee his sisters, Mrs. W. T. Andrews his daughter of this place and three sons who are away and other dear ones are left to mourn his loss. The sympathy of this community is extended to the bereaved family.

An Estimable Gathering.

Friday evening 26th inst., at the residence of Mr. W. A. Bowles' 3rd street southwest, in honor of Mrs. N. B. Gachar of Philadelphia, Pa. Many pleasant games were indulged in after which Prof. J. T. Newman Washington favorite Soloist, rendered some of his choice selections. Among those present was Misses L. E. Scott, M. L. Bryant, L. C. Jones, S. P. Robb, D. L. Valentine, I. Jackson, and Mr. L. Butler, Messrs. W. H. Grant, Dr. A. J. Gwathney, G. Wilson, G. A. Turner, F. M. Woodson, S. W. Rutherford, and Prof. J. T. Newman.